

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION  
3614 East Ashlan Avenue, Fresno, California, 93726

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**

concerning  
TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE  
TULARE LAKE BASIN  
and  
NOTICE OF FILING OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS  
for  
WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR BACTERIA  
and  
AMENDMENT TO CLARIFY AND UPDATE LANGUAGE

The Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Regional Board) will hold a public hearing to complete the Triennial Review of the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin* (Basin Plan). The Regional Board will also consider adoption of the proposed amendments to the Basin Plan to update bacteria objectives for water contact recreation, and to update the language in the Basin Plan. As part of amending the Basin Plan, the Regional Board will consider approval of the draft “functionally equivalent” environmental documents prepared pursuant to Section 21080.5 of the Public Resources Code. After hearing testimony, the Board may choose to act on the proposals or the Board may choose to close the hearings and vote on proposals at the next meeting tentatively scheduled for 6 December 2002. The public hearings will be part of a regular meeting of the Regional Board at the time and location noted below:

Date: **17 or 18 October 2002**  
Time: **9:00 a.m.**  
Place: **Fresno City Hall**  
**Council Chambers, 2nd Floor**  
**2600 Fresno St.**  
**Fresno, CA 93721**

On 26 April 2002, the Regional Board conducted a workshop to receive comments from the public on issues that should be considered in updating the Basin Plan and the priority that should be given to each issue. Based on comments received in writing and at the workshop, staff has prepared a report which summarizes the issues identified and presents staff recommendations for the priority for addressing them.

Staff are proposing for Regional Board consideration, updating the bacteria objectives for water contact recreation, and updating the language in the Basin Plan. The updated bacteria objectives are based on substantial research conducted by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), which has provided new information on the best “indicators” of the presence of disease-causing organisms and the relationship between these indicators and illness rates. Draft environmental documents have been prepared

for the proposed amendments, which conclude they will have no significant effects on the environment.

The staff report for the triennial review, the response to the triennial review comments and the draft staff report for the proposed amendments, which includes the environmental documentation required under CEQA, may be obtained by contacting Pam Buford at (559) 445-5576 or [bufordp@rb5f.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:bufordp@rb5f.swrcb.ca.gov). The draft staff reports are also available at [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/available\\_documents/](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/available_documents/) for downloading in PDF format under the heading **Basin Plans**.

In order to be included in the written response to comments that is a part of the final administrative record, written comments should be submitted by **30 September 2002** to Pam Buford, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, 3614 East Ashlan Avenue, Fresno, CA 93726. At the hearing on 17 or 18 October 2002, staff will summarize the written comments and present a final recommendation for Regional Board consideration. Interested persons will be provided the opportunity to present oral comments to the Regional Board at the hearing.

All interested persons may speak at the Board meeting, and are expected to orally summarize their written submittals. Oral testimony will be limited in time by the Board Chair.

Confirmation of the hearing date and any questions regarding the triennial review or the proposed amendments should be directed to Pam Buford at (559) 445-5576 or [bufordp@rb5f.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:bufordp@rb5f.swrcb.ca.gov). The hearing facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Ms. Janice Tanaka at (916) 255-3039 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

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LOREN J. HARLOW, Assistant Executive Officer

27 August 2002